

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGR-05 /037 W
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R 061514Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0694

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSIONS EC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ILAB,EAGR,NO,US

SUBJ: CALIFORNIA DELEGATION VISITS OSLO ON GRAPES AND LETTUCE
ISSUE

REFS: (A) STATE 261849

(B) OSLO 4827

(C) OSLO 4812

SUMMARY: (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) ON NOV 2 THREE-MAN TEAM
FROM CALIFORNIA ARRIVED OSLO TO MEET WITH NORWEGIANS
IN RESPONSE TO LETTER OF OCT 24 SIGNED BY STORTING
(PARLIAMENT) REPRESENTATIVES IMPLYING THAT CERTAIN
GRAPES AND LETTUCE IMPORTED FROM U.S. CONTAINED
HARMFUL PESTICIDES. GROUP MET WITH MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE,STORTING REPRESENTATIVES,UNIVERSITY
EXPERTS AND IMPORTERS TO CLARIFY MISIMPRESSIONS LEFT
BY STORTING LETTER AND OUTLINE MEASURES TAKEN IN
CALIFORNIA TO PROTECT APPLICATORS AND CONSUMERS FROM
PESTICIDE USE. DELEGATION VISIT WAS MOST USEFUL.
ON LABOR FRONT, INDICATIONS ARE THAT TRANSPORT WORKERS
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UNION DOES NOT PLAN TO REIMPOSE BOYCOTT AND THAT AFTER

THIS SUDDEN RESUMPTION,BOYCOTT ISSUE WILL FADE AWAY.
END SUMMARY.

1. A THREE MAN TEAM CONSISTING OF MANAGER CALIFORNIA
TABLE GRAPE COMMISSION BRUCE OBBINK,DR. JULIAN WHALEY,
PROFESSOR PLANT PROTECTION, AND DR. VINCENT PETRUCCI,
PROFESSOR VITICULTURE OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
AT FRESNO,ARRIVED OSLO NOV 2 AND MET WITH NORWEGIAN
OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN IN EFFORT TO CLEAR
UP MISLEADING STATEMENTS ABOUT PESTICIDE USE CONTAINED
STORTING LETTER(REFTEL B).

2. ACCOMPANIED BY AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND POL COUNS,
GROUP MET ON NOV 4 WITH MINISTER TREHOLT AND TECHNICAL AND POLICY
LEVEL OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ON NOV 5
HELD MEETING WITH INTERESTED STORTING REPRESENTATIVES.
FROUP ALSO MET WITH NORWEGIAN GRAPE IMPORTERS.

3. IN SERIES OF QUIET,PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS,U.S. TEAM
OUTLINED U.S., CALIFORNIA, AND COUNTY LAWS AND REGULA-
TIONS CONCERNING USE OF PESTICIDES ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLES
IN EFFORT TO ASSURE NORWEGIANS THAT U.S. EXPORTS
ARE SAFE TO CONSUME. DISCUSSIONS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL
SHOWED THAT PESTICIDES APPROVED FOR USE IN BOTH
COUNTRIES ARE SIMILAR AND THAT NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS
WITH WHOM GROUP MET EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
IN U.S. PESTICIDE CONTROLS AND DO NOT VIEW PESTICIDE
RESIDUES ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED FROM U.S.
AS DANGEROUS. DISCUSSIONS ALSO SHOWED THAT A NJMBER
OF PESTICIDES NORWEGIANS BELIEVE U.S. IS USING ARE NO
LONGER IN USE.(END UNCLASSIFIED)

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4. DURING CLOSED SESSION WITH SIX REPRESENTATIVE
STORTINGSMEN, SEVERAL ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR DISPLEASURE
THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN PROVIDED WITH ALL FACTS BEFORE
THEY SIGNED JOINT LETTER. MOREOVER, BOTH STORTINGSMEN
AND AGRICULTURAL MINISTER TREHOLT WERE DISCONCERTED
WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THAT ENGLISH VERSION OF NORWEGIAN
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TEXT OF LETTER,WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTED ABROAD WITH
SIGNATURES ON IT, WAS DIFFERENT IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT
RESPECTS FROM THE NORWEGIAN TEXT WHICH STORTINGSMEN
IN FACT SIGNED. MINISTER TREHOLT TOLD GROUP THAT HE
HAD NOT BEEN AWARE THAT HIS NAME WAS USED IN THE LETTER,
AND DENIED THE STATEMENT IN LETTER ATTRIBUTED TO HIM.
HE SAID HE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER EXCESSIVE USE
OF PESTICIDES IN NORWAY BUT HAD NEVER DISCUSSED THIS

IN CONNECTION ANY IMPORTS. TWO NON-SOCIALIST
STORTINGSMEN SUGGESTED CALIFORNIA TEAM MIGHT WISH TO
TAKE ISSUE TO PRESS, BUT TEAM DECLINED SAYING THAT
THEY PREFERRED TO INFORM APPROPRIATE NORWEGIANS ABOUT THE
MISINFORMATION SO THEY COULD HANDLE IT IN PROPER MANNER.

5. MEANWHILE, ISSUE WAS ALREADY FADING FROM MEDIA
WHEN NORWEGIAN FRUIT WHOLESALERS ASSOCIA-
TION REOPENED MATTER OCT 31 WITH LETTER TO STORTINGSMEN
AND PRESS CRITICIZING STORTING LETTER AND RAISING
THE CONTROVERSIAL UNION QUESTION AGAIN. WHOLESALERS
ARE CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL BOYCOTT THREAT AND CON-
SUMER FEARS OF POSSIBLE HARMFUL PESTICIDE RESIDUES ON
U.S. PRODUCTS. LABOR PRESS RETURNED THE WHOLESALERS
FIRE WITH "ARBEIDERBLADET"(OSLO-LABOR) CALLING
FOR CONSUMER BOYCOTT OF CALIFORNIA GRAPES AND LETTUCE.

6. HOWEVER,TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION PRESIDENT KOLSTAD
INFORMED LABATT IN CONFIDENCE THAT HIS UNION HAS NO
INTENTION OF REINSTATING ITS EARLIER HARBOR BOYCOTT
BARRING DRASTIC CHANGES IN SITUATION IN CALIFORNIA
(E.G., UNJUST APPLICATION OR FAILURE TO ENFORCE
LAW, ETC.) AND THEN ONLY AS COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL
TRADE UNION ACTION. HE GAVE IMPRESSION HIS AND OTHER UNIONS
WERE DECIDEDLY COOL TO ANY CONSUMER BOYCOTT ACTION
WHILE UNION ELECTIONS PROCEEDING IN CALIFORNIA,BUT
WAS IRRITATED AT WHOLESALERS LETTER SUGGESTING THAT
CALIFORNIA LABOR CONTROVERSIES WERE NONE OF NORWEGIANS
BUSINESS.

7. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE CALIFORNIA GROUP VISIT
WAS HELPFUL IN PRESENTING FACTS ON PESTICIDE SITUATION.
THE HEART OF PROBLEM IN NORWAY STILL LIES IN UNION
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RATHER THAN PESTICIDE QUAETION. TO EXTENT UNION ISSUE
IS NOT INFLAMED--AND BARRING UNFORESEEN PROVOCATION
IT APPEARS IT WILL NOT--BOYCOTTS ON CALIFORNIA
GRAPES AND LETTUCE WOULD NOW SEEM UNLIKELY.(END LIMITED
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